

INSIDE GARDNER

City launches new website to support brand and enhance customer service

The City of Gardner has launched a new website to reflect its new brand. This site replaces the city's original website that was first introduced more than 10 years ago.

The new website displays the city's vivid colors of blue and gold and provides a more modern look and feel. It was also designed to represent movement and forward motion to coincide with the new logo and tagline.

In addition to aesthetic enhancements, the layout was structured so visitors can more quickly and easily navigate the site, thus eliminating the number of clicks needed to locate desired information.

"While it was important for us to update our site to reflect our current brand, we also had three goals in mind when developing it: provide better transparency of information, a more user-friendly experience, and relevant content that is important to residents, visitors and businesses," Daneeka Marshall-Oquendo, communications manager, said.

Provide Better Transparency:

The city included a navigation strictly dedicated to documents so users can easily access them – from budget information to city development plans all housed under one area in addition to the departments they fall under.

User-friendly Experience

The new navigation is simple with easy-to-find information. Access to material is located in

multiple places, making it convenient for users. The site was also created using the latest technology to ensure compatibility with today's browsers and mobile devices.

Relevant Content:

"Our previous site served us well the past 10 years, but the city has moved in a new direction with the primary focus being economic development. We needed a site with richer content that spoke to businesses as well as our residents and visitors," Marshall-Oquendo said.

The city takes pride in the fact that the site provides greater customer service through its content and navigation, but also through a new component called: "Submit A Service Request," allowing users to report a service issue such as a pothole or to request information directly from staff.

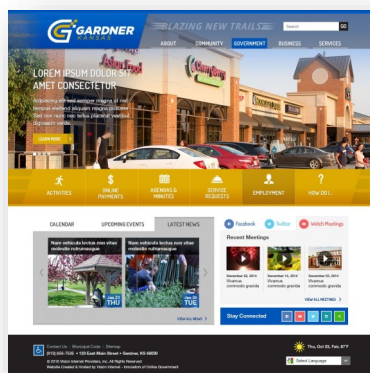
"We look forward to everyone viewing the new website and seeing how it can become a helpful

resource to them. We also welcome any feedback that will help make the new website even more customer-friendly," she added.

Visit www.gardnerkansas.gov to view the new website.



FORMER WEBSITE



NEW WEBSITE

New land development code draft up for review

City of Gardner staff have been working diligently to complete the rewrite of its Land Development Code.

A land development code serves as a blueprint for residential and business developers, providing rules and regulations for development in a particular city.

"The city wanted rules drafted in 'plain language' that is easily understood and in alignment for planned growth," Larry Powell, Business and Economic Development Director said. "We are also streamlining processes and clarifying regulations, potentially making Gardner a more attractive place to live, work and do business."

Citizen advisory committees, focus groups and city staff worked together to help engage the public and explore critical issues and solutions. These issues included housing variety, downtown, open space, street trees, signs and temporary uses, which were addressed in the code rewrite.

These groups are reviewing the initial draft code along with the Planning Commission, with the goal of submitting a recommendation to the City Council by June.



Shooting off fireworks this Fourth of July?

Setting off fireworks to commemorate our Declaration of Independence is one of the most popular ways Americans celebrate this day in history. However, with the thrill of watching colors explode in the sky can also bring dangers.

According to USA.gov, 240 people go to the emergency room each day with firework-related injuries in the month leading up to the Fourth of July. While legally shooting off fireworks in Gardner is only a two-day event, July 3 and July 4, the city wants to ensure your safety and the safety of others during this period.

The best way to ensure your family has a fun and safe holiday is to attend a public fireworks display and leave the lighting to the professionals. But, if you do choose to use fireworks on your own, please remember these important safety tips:

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks, including sparklers. Older children should use fireworks only under close adult supervision.
- Light fireworks outdoors in a clear area away from onlookers, houses, vehicles and other flammable materials.



- Light one device at a time; maintain a safe distance after lighting. (Wear safety glasses and avoid wearing loose clothing.)
- Never ignite devices in a container. Do not try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks; douse and soak them with water and discard them safely.
- Keep a bucket of water and/or a water hose nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire.
- Report illegal explosives, like M-80s and quarter sticks to the Police Department.

**Fireworks Safety Tips provided by the National Council on Fireworks Safety.*

A message from MAYOR CHRIS MORROW

Greetings fellow citizens,

The 2015-16 school year is ending and summer begins again. I ask everyone in Gardner, please take extra care driving around town. Our young people will be out in greater numbers for the next several months. We want everyone to be safe while enjoying Gardner's great amenities, including our parks, ball fields, trails and the Aquatic Center.



Family fun abounds with great events dotting the summer schedule here in Gardner, including the two-day Festival on the Trails June 10 and June 11. Festival fun includes a car show, a 3 on 3 basketball tournament, craft show, kids zone, and our annual Chat-fest—a gathering of our distinguished and longtime residents. It includes two nights of live music, including Saturday night's headliner, Diamond Rio, a legendary country music act with three platinum albums and multiple awards to their credit. Thanks to the Festival on the Trails committee members, volunteers and sponsors for putting on this signature event.

The live music and fun doesn't end there. The City of Gardner will host a Fourth of July Celebration, more of an extravaganza actually, with fun for the whole family starting at 3 p.m. at Celebration Park. Live music will again be a part of the fun, with four different acts including our headliner, country music legend in the making, Chase Bryant. The festivities will end with a bang, with one of the metro area's best fireworks displays.

Last but not least, May is the month for graduations. Congratulations to all of our Gardner-Edgerton High School graduates, and to our GEHS alumni now graduating college. Best wishes to all in your future endeavors. I hope you choose to stay in Gardner; however, if life's path takes you elsewhere, I hope you will come back and visit family and friends often.

Enjoy summertime, Gardner. While you're at it, please be safe, keep cool and have fun!

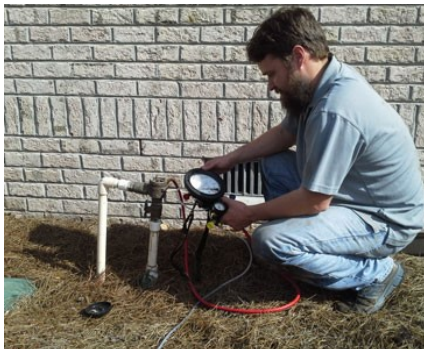
Best regards,

Backflow test reports due July 1

Each year the city requires annual certified testing of all backflow prevention devices, by July 1, to help ensure safe drinking water is provided to the community.

Backflow takes place when water in a distribution system flows in the opposite direction from what is normal. Backflow devices help to protect the public water supply from cross-contamination by sprinkler systems, boilers, carbonators and more. Failure to conduct these tests can pose a serious risk to customers who use the Gardner water system.

Customers are required to obtain certified testers, such as a certified landscaper or plumber, to complete the test. For more information, contact the Utilities Department at 913.856.0980.



Chase Bryant headlines Gardner's Fourth of July celebration.

If you're even somewhat of a country music fan, then you most likely know the name Chase Bryant or his chart-topping song "Little Bit of You."

Bryant serves as the biggest-named performer ever to grace the stage during one of Gardner's Fourth of July Celebrations since these free concerts began in 2014.

Bringing in a popular musical artist of his caliber is one way the city is trying to improve the quality of life for its citizens.

Citizens don't have to travel to another city for quality entertainment. These concerts featuring guests like Chase Bryant also showcase Gardner as a progressive and thriving city, which attracts new residents, visitors and businesses.



Bryant will serve as the closing act for the concert-driven event at Celebration Park, located at 32501 W. 159th St. Prior to him taking the stage, crowds will also enjoy music from other musical guests, including: Rusty Laffoon, Sara Morgan and returning fan-favorite, Big Time Grain Company.

While listening to these top-notch performers, attendees can also enjoy other activities such as zip lining, face painting, bounce houses and a variety of food vendors.

Entertainment will start at 3 p.m. A fireworks show will start at 10 p.m. to conclude the evening.

Watch for more details about the event at www.gardnerkansas.gov.

CITY COUNCIL

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Messages may also be left for any Council Member or the Mayor at 913-856-0939

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DID YOU KNOW?

The City of Gardner's 2016 Consumer Confidence Report for 2015 water quality is now available at www.gardnerkansas.gov. The city provides this annual report to assure citizens the public water system provides safe, clean and dependable water according to state and federal standards. Receive a hard copy of the report by contacting the Utilities Department at 913.856.0980 or cweeks@gardnerkansas.gov.



POSTAL PATRON GARDNER, KS 66030

Mark your calendars



City Council Meetings:

- May 16 at 7 p.m.
- June 6 at 7 p.m.
- June 20 at 7 p.m.
- July 5 at 7 p.m.

*View more meeting dates at www.gardner-kansas.gov

Don't forget!

Pool Passes Now on Sale

Season pool pass memberships and punch cards for aquatics classes at the Gardner Aquatic Center are on sale for the 2016 summer season. Gardner residents must show proof of residency to purchase a resident pool pass. A current driver's license, utility bill or personal check can be shown. Passes and punch cards can only be purchased at the Gardner Parks and Recreation Customer Service Center, located in City Hall, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Gardner Aquatic Center will open its doors on Saturday, May 28, at 1:00 p.m. View the new Pool Guide online at www.gardnerkansas.gov/pool. See you there!



UPCOMING GARDNER PARKS AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

	Date	Registration Deadline	Age/Grade	Costs
Youth Programs				
Park Champion	April 1 - Aug 31	N/A	12 and Under	Free
Walk and Read Weekend	June 4-5	N/A	All Ages	Free
Bike Rodeo	June 4	May 30	12 and Under	\$5
Youth Volleyball Skills Clinics	June 6-8	June 3	6th-12th Grade	\$50/\$135
Junior Golf Clinic	June 6-9	June 3	8 - 15 years	\$60
Total Baseball Camp	June 13-15	June 3	5 - 14 years	\$65
Babysitting Clinic	June 14	June 8	11-15 years	\$55
Paint In The Parks- Cornerstone	June 16	June 10	3-10 years	\$5
Play Well Lego Camp	June 20-24	June 10	5-7 and 8-12 years	\$150
Mother/Daughter Glampout	June 24-25	June 20	5-12 years	\$20
Paint in the Parks - Veteran's	June 30	June 24	3-10 years	\$5
Father/Son Campout	July 8-9	July 1	5-12 years	\$20
Livin' The Dream Basketball Clinic	July 14	July 7	2nd-8th Grade	\$80
Adult/Family Programs				
Women's Volleyball-Grass League	June 7	May 30	18 and Older	\$150
Music and Movies in the Park	June 18	N/A	All	Free
Summer Splash at the GAC	June 18	N/A	All	General Admissions Fee
Night at the T-Bones	July 1	June 22	All	\$9.50/ticket
Fourth of July Celebration	July 4	N/A	All	Free